GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:563
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
DIABETES AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading doctors of the Birmingham-based University of Alabama and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation have sounded warning of a high incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in India;

(b) if so, whether India has the highest incidence of these diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any extensive study on the increasing cases of heart disease has been done by the Union Government;

(e) if so, whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cost of surgery of heart patients;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action plan chalked out to check the incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 563 FOR 30.4.2003

There is no nation wide data collection regarding the number of people suffering from diabetes and heart diseases. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the doctors of the University of Albama at Birmingham and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) in Chennai have emphasized the high incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in India. It has been estimated that 19.4 million individuals were affected by diabetes in India in 1995 and these numbers are expected to increase to 57.2 million (1/6th of the world total) by the year 2025.

As far as heart diseases are concerned, World Bank Health Sectoral Priorities have estimated doubling of deaths due to CVD between 1985-2015 in India. Meta analysis of the published surveys reported in the Indian Heart Journal indicates that the prevalence of coronary heart disease which is one of the heart ailments is increasing in India over the decades from 1960-95. The number of cardiac patients are 65 million which include hypertension, Ischaemic Heart Disease (IHD), stroke and Rheumatic Heart Disease which is 6.6% of the total population and deaths due to Cardiovascular Disease are 6,00,000 consisting of 6.8% of total deaths.

Treatment of diabetes and heart ailments is available in the regular health care delivery system in the country. For complicated cases, specialized institutions in the different parts of the country provide necessary treatment. Government hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (RML), Safdarjung Hospital and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Educational and Research (JIPMER), Pondicher etc. as well as premier institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute (PGI), Chandigarh etc The cost of surgery is either free or highly subsidized in Government institutions. The National Illness Assistance Fund (now known as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi) is also available for providing financial assistance for treatment of poor patients.

Since diabetes and CVD are lifestyle related diseases, it is very important to adopt preventive lifestyle intervention measures such as healthy diet, increased physical activity, avoidance of tobacco and stress weight reduction etc. for control of diabetes & CVD in India. These interventions are being emphasized through Information, Education & Communication(IEC) activities of the Government including through Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB).